



## **Birtley Parish Council**

Minutes of the Meeting of Birtley Parish Council held in the Supper Room of Birtley Village Hall starting at 8.00 pm. on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

At the beginning of the meeting the chairman announced the death of former councillor Jack Robson. He gave praise to the unselfish work he carried out in the community and his length of service on the council which was forty years.

### **04-03-01 Present**

Cllrs DRB Burn (Chairman), SW Crone, AR Brotherton and WG White. Clerk: Robert Macfarlane and County Cllr RM Gibson and member of the public.

### **04-03-02 Apologies**

Cllrs EN Coulson and A Lowes

### **04-03-03 Declaration of Interest**

SW Crone - Wark Church of England First School

### **04-03-04 Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were agreed and signed.

### **04-03-05 Matters Arising**

None

### **04-03-06 Public First Focus**

#### **Proposal to merge or close Wark CofE First School**

Debbie Longlands, Governor of Wark CofE First School addressed the Council

#### **Northumberland County Council's consultation on education in West Northumberland**

It was RESOLVED that Birtley Parish Council strongly objects to any proposal to close or merge Wark Church of England First School. The Council fully supports the School's Governing Body as well as the parents, pupils and the wider community who are all keen to keep a Primary or First School functioning in Wark.

### **04-03-07 Review of Documents**

**Code of Conduct** Nalc will soon circulate this model document for consideration.

04-03-08 **Correspondence**

Councillors were circulated with correspondence. GNAA newsletter, CAN Newsletter, Nalc Enews, Consultation - Car Parking Studies for Alnwick, Morpeth, Hexham and Berwick, Civic Voice - War Memorials News, Northumberland Local Plan Update and 'Call for Sites', Post 16 Transport Consultation, Ray Wind Farm Community Fund and FOI Data Protection from Nalc

04-03-09 **Roads**

**Snow Ploughing**

Clerk to enquire whether an area near Carry Coats Farm can be included in snow clearance route.

**Rally Disruption**

Clerk asked to send a letter of complaint about the noise, road damage that occurred at 1 am on 24<sup>th</sup> February by racing cars.

04-03-10 **Reports**

**NCC** Cllr Gibson gave a verbal report.

**Village Hall and Play Park** Cllr Brotherton wondered if the Ray Wind Farm Community Fund could be used for providing new items for the park. He also pointed out that the defibrillator is not luminated making it difficult to see the numbers on the buttons when trying to dial the ambulance service. The table tennis club will be starting soon.

**St Giles Church**

The annual clean-up is planned for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

04-03-11 **External Auditors**

**PKF Littlejohn (PKF) are the new external auditors.**

**NB** Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) is a Limited Assurance Review only. The Common Period for Inspection of Accounts (6-week period) must include the first 10 working days in July and will remain in force this year. It may be amended in 2019. The fees have been set by SAAA. The original hard copies of Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR are not required so all information can now be submitted via email.

04-03-12 **FINANCES**

**Approved Payments**

Clerk's salary £240, HMRC £60, Expenses £19.65, Website £47.96, Mower Insurance £557.26

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 8pm in the Supper Room of Birtley Parish Hall

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.